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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/750,471

12/30/2003

Chiang Yeh

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ALCATEL LUCENT
(FKA ALCATEL INTERNETWORKING, INC.)
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
3400 W. PLANO PARKWAY, MS LEGL2
PLANO, TX 75075

EXAMINER

MONIKANG, GEORGE C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,471

Applicant(s)

YEH, CHIANG

Examiner

George C. Monikang

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/1/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-2, 11-16, 24-27 & 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa, US Patent 5,715,317, in view of applicant's admitted prior art (figs. 1-6; paras 0002-0017; hereinafter referred to as AAPA).

Re Claim 1, Nakazawa discloses a method of processing sound data determining, in a sound conditioning filter database having filters characterized by a stored set of coefficients wherein each stored set of filter coefficients is a function of at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), two or more stored sets of coefficients proximate to the at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (col. 7, line 66 through vol. 8, line 2); interpolating between the

Art Unit: 2615

determined two or more stored sets of coefficients (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54); convolving the sound data with a shaping filter having the interpolated filter coefficients (fig. 1: 13; col. 6, lines 40-54); and transmitting the resulting signal to a sound-producing array (fig. 8: S812); but fails to disclose receiving sound data at one or more microphones, comprising the steps of: receiving a transmission having sound data and an audio source spatial data set relative to the one or more microphones. However, AAPA does (fig. 1: 108).

Taking the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method of processing sound data determining, in a sound conditioning filter database having filters characterized by a stored set of coefficients wherein each stored set of filter coefficients is a function of at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), two or more stored sets of coefficients proximate to the at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (col. 7; line 66 through vol. 8, line 2); interpolating between the determined two or more stored sets of coefficients (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54); convolving the sound data with a shaping filter having the interpolated filter coefficients (fig. 1: 13; col. 6, lines 40-54); and transmitting the resulting signal to a sound-producing array (fig. 8: S812) with receiving sound data at one or more microphones, comprising the steps of: receiving a transmission having sound data and an audio source spatial data set relative to the one or more microphones as taught in AAPA (fig. 1: 108) so the system is able to pickup sound for processing.

Re Claim 2, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1 wherein the spatial data set comprises an audio source distance setting relative to the one or more microphones (Nakazawa, abstract).

Re Claim 11, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: encapsulating the sound data and an audio source spatial data set relative to the one or more microphones into packets (AAPA, para 0004); transmitting via a network the packets; and receiving and de-encapsulating from the packets the sound data and the audio source spatial data set (AAPA, para 0004).

Re Claim 12, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of: encoding the sound data and an audio source spatial data set relative to the one or more microphones into telephone signals (AAPA, para 0004); transmitting via a circuit switched network (AAPA, para 0004); receiving and de-encoding from the telephone signals the sound data and the audio source spatial data set (AAPA, para 0004).

Re Claim 13, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1 wherein the sound-producing array is comprised of headphones (AAPA, para 0008).

Re Claim 14, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1 wherein the sound-producing array is comprised of a plurality of audio speakers (AAPA, para 0004).

Re Claim 15, Nakazawa discloses a method of spatial filter tuning determining, in a sound conditioning filter database having filters characterized by a stored set of coefficients wherein each stored set of filter coefficients is a function of at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), two or more stored sets of coefficients proximate to the at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (col. 7, line 66 through vol. 8, line 2); interpolating between the determined two or more stored sets of coefficients (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), convolving the sound data with a shaping filter having the interpolated filter coefficients (fig. 1: 13; col. 6, lines 40-54); and transmitting the resulting signal to the sound-producing array (fig. 8: S812); but fails to disclose comprising transmitting sound waves toward a subject having a torso and a head via a sound-producing array (AAPA, para 0008); receiving the reflected sound waves via one or more microphones (AAPA, fig. 1: 108); processing the received sound waves to determine time-relative changes in subject head orientation and subject torso orientation (AAPA, para 0007); translating the determined time-relative changes in subject orientation into changes in an audio source spatial data set (AAPA, para 0008). However, AAPA does.

Taking the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method of spatial filter tuning determining, in a sound conditioning filter database having filters characterized by a stored set of coefficients wherein each stored set of filter coefficients is a function of at least one element of the audio source spatial data set (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), two or more stored sets of coefficients proximate to the at least one element of the audio

source spatial data set (col. 7, line 66 through vol. 8, line 2); interpolating between the determined two or more stored sets of coefficients (fig. 1: 12; col. 6, lines 40-54), convolving the sound data with a shaping filter having the interpolated filter coefficients (fig. 1: 13; col. 6, lines 40-54); and transmitting the resulting signal to the sound-producing array (fig. 8: S812) of Nakazawa with comprising transmitting sound waves toward a subject having a torso and a head via a sound-producing array (AAPA, para 0008); receiving the reflected sound waves via one or more microphones (AAPA, fig. 1: 108); processing the received sound waves to determine time-relative changes in subject head orientation and subject torso orientation (AAPA, para 0007); translating the determined time-relative changes in subject orientation into changes in an audio source spatial data set (AAPA, para 0008) as taught in AAPA so the system is able to pickup sound interacting with the head, torso etc for processing.

Claims 16 & 27 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 2.

Claims 24 & 34 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 13.

Claim 25 & 35 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 14.

Claim 26 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 1.

Claim 32 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 11.

Claim 33 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 12.

Claims 3-10, 17-23 & 28-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazawa, US Patent 5,715,317 and applicant's admitted prior art (figs. 1-6; paras 0002-0017; hereinafter referred to as AAPA) as applied to claim 1

above, and further in view of Nakazawa's admitted prior art (figs. 13-15, col. 1, line 7 through col. 3, line 45; hereinafter referred to as NAAPA).

Re Claim 3, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1; but fail to disclose wherein the spatial data set comprises a first audio source angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones. However, NAAPA does (col. 2, lines 39-44).

Taking the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method of Nakazawa and AAPA with wherein the spatial data set comprises a first audio source angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones as taught in NAAPA (col. 2, lines 39-44) so that the system is able to pickup multiple sounds from different directions for processing.

Re Claim 4, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 3 wherein the spatial data set comprises an audio source distance setting relative to the one or more microphones (Nakazawa, abstract).

Re Claim 5, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 3 wherein the spatial data set further comprises a second audio source angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones, the second audio source angle of incidence being substantially orthogonal to the first audio source angle of incidence (NAAPA, col., lines 39-44: the specified angle can be set to 90 degrees or arbitrary angle could cross paths with each other in any form including orthogonally).

Re Claim 6, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 5 wherein the spatial data set comprises an audio source distance setting relative to the one or more microphones (Nakazawa, abstract).

Re Claim 7, the combined teachings of Nakazawa and AAPA disclose the method of claim 1; but fails to disclose further comprising the step of determining a first audio source angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones for inclusion in the spatial data set. However, NAAPA does (col. 2, lines 39-44).

Taking the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA as a whole, one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to modify the method of Nakazawa and AAPA with further comprising the step of determining a first audio source angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones for inclusion in the spatial data set as taught in NAAPA (col. 2, lines 39-44) so that the system is able to pickup multiple sounds from different directions for processing.

Re Claim 8, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 7 further comprising the steps of: determining, for a voice-over-Internet Protocol session (AAPA, fig. 1: 110 & 114; para 0004), a nominal audio source distance set point relative to the one or more microphones (AAPA, fig. 14: 130 & 134; para 0005); and determining an audio source distance setting relative to the determined nominal distance set point for inclusion in the spatial data set (AAPA, fig. 14: 132; para 0005).

Re Claim 9, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 7 further comprising the step of determining a second audio source

Art Unit: 2615

angle of incidence relative to the one or more microphones, the second audio source angle of incidence being substantially orthogonal to the first audio source angle of incidence for inclusion in the spatial data set (NAAPA, col., lines 39-44: the specified angle can be set to 90 degrees or arbitrary angle could cross paths with each other in any form including orthogonally).

Re Claim 10, the combined teachings of Nakazawa, AAPA and NAAPA disclose the method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of: determining, for a voice-over-Internet Protocol session (AAPA, fig. 1: 110 & 114; para 0004), a nominal audio source distance set point relative to the one or more microphones (AAPA, fig. 14: 130 & 134; para 0005); and determining an audio source distance setting relative to the determined nominal distance set point for inclusion in the spatial data set (AAPA, fig. 14: 132; para 0005).

Claims 17 & 28 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 3.

Claim 18 & 29 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 4.

Claims 19 & 30 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 5.

Claims 20 & 31 have been analyzed and rejected according to claim 6.

Claim 21 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 7.

Claim 22 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 8.

Claim 23 has been analyzed and rejected according to claim 9.

Contact


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Monikang whose telephone number is 571-270-1190. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. alt Fri. Off 7:30am-5:00pm (est).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

George Monikang

8/29/2007


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000